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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Merton Bernfield and Ofer Reizes
Serial No.: 08/965,356 Group Art Unit: 1632
Filed: November 6, 1997 Examiner: A. Baker
For: METHODS AND REAGENTS FOR REGULATING OBESITY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed October 9, 1998, please amend the application as follows. A Petition for an Extension of Time for three months, and the appropriate fee, are enclosed with this response. Also enclosed with this response is an unexecuted Declaration and exhibits. The executed Declaration will be submitted shortly.

In the Claims

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1. (amended) A non-human transgenic animal [having binding to] genetically engineered to express a syndecan or proteoglycan portions thereof [the melanocortin 4 receptor function inactivated], wherein the animal is characterized by an obese phenotype.
 2. (amended) The animal of claim 1 wherein the animal expresses a [molecule] syndecan from a genetically engineered construct stably integrated into its genome [wherein the molecule